

Drought-stricken families get needed support, funding

THE TEAM at the Maryborough Telstra call centre has spent the last month collecting donations, toys and food to go to people who will be facing the drought this Christmas.

More than \$1000, countless toys and plenty of food have been sent to the centre which will be sent on to those who need it through Drought Angels, just in time for the silly season.

Call centre team leader Toni Hansen said the staff at the Maryborough Telstra hub had been "blown away" by the charity of others.

"We've been relying on word of mouth within the centre, and now it's probably grown bigger than Ben Hur," Toni said.

"We've had other parts of Telstra involved, a man in Bundaberg has links to the Salvation Army, and he arrived one day with a truck full of toys.

"It's just amazing the amount of generosity in this town and even out of the area."

She said the fundraiser had struck a nerve with a lot of people in the area who knew how dry it was around the state.

She said it was not too late to make a donation.

"People who are interested can come into the centre—we're across from Maryborough Woollies," she said.

"It's all being collected on Saturday to be sent out west."

Keeping safe: More than fingerprints left behind



SAFETY: Maryborough Sports Club manager David Banks and Maryborough police Senior Sergeant Tony Coles. Mr Banks has installed a new security system at the club that will make catching thieves even easier. PHOTO: CARLIE WALKER

Extra protection with DNA system

■ Carlie Walker

IT'S a secret weapon that would-be thieves will never see coming – and it's already being used by a Maryborough business.

Maryborough Sports Club manager David Banks said the new security system was called DNA Guardian.

He said in the case of a thief entering the premises, the person will be hit with a light spray.

The substance, which contains a code that is unique to each security system, will remain on the offender's skin and clothing for up to three months.

“The DNA Guardian system added an extra dimension to ensure the protection of the club.”

Mr Banks said in addition to the CCTV cameras at the club and security surveillance, the DNA Guardian system added an extra dimension to ensure the protection of the club and its patrons and staff.

Maryborough police Senior Sergeant Tony Coles said it was important for businesses to be proactive when it came to security.

He said the system set up by the Maryborough Sports Club would help police in the event of a crime being committed at the club, along with the other security measures that were already in place.

The system includes a panic button so staff can mark criminals and any stock that is taken as they leave the premises, as well as including an after-hours system.

The substance that is sprayed is a harmless non-toxic solution.

At about \$5000 to install, Mr Banks said it was just as cost-effective as any other system to install.

Mr Banks said that with the sports club being on the outskirts of town, the system had given him an added feeling of security.

He said it was important to keep up with new technology to ensure the club was protected.

➤ For more information, go to www.dnasecuritysolutions.com.au/ for more information.

THUMBS UP FOR GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE

MECHANICS, golf courses and vet clinics have all been given the Thumbs Up by Chronicle readers.

■ Anne Gilbert wants to thank Amanda McMahon from Tradelink Maryborough for her "fantastic service with a big smile and positive comments" when they purchased a vanity recently.

■ Anne Hare was full of praise for the wait staff at the Golfie clubhouse.

"Absolutely terrific service from them all, well done."

■ Rebekka Charles wants to thank Scarness Veterinary Clinic for their help last Wednesday evening when her dog took ill.

"Thank you Lilly and staff."

■ Tracy Bullen gave "a huge thumbs up to the police officers from Maryborough" whose humour cheered her up after an ac-



cident on Wednesday.

■ Allan Kirkegaard recommends Big Nutz Mechanical because they are "always helpful and very good service for mobile fixes – anything from a car to a bulldozer."

■ Sally Irvine has given the thumbs up to Best Western plus Quarter-decks retreat.

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